

### SEGMENT 3: SALEM CHURCH ROAD REALIGNMENT

Segment 3 consists of the proposed realignment of Salem Church Road and extends from just south of Fix's Corner (the intersection of Old Baltimore Pike and Salem Church Road) in a northeasterly direction for 4000 feet, to a point where it rejoins the northern branch of Salem Church Road, just south of I-95 (Figure 19). The ROW is approximately 100 feet in width, except around the proposed Fix's Corner intersection. The current environmental setting of most of this portion of the proposed ROW consists of woodland and swamp, with some residential and commercial development present at Fix's Corner. Within these woodland settings are small rises and fingers of land bordering the small swamps and drainages. These areas were considered to contain high potential for the location of prehistoric micro-band camps and/or procurement sites (Custer 1986; Custer and DeSantis 1986).

Phase I testing consisted of a pedestrian survey of the proposed ROW, and the excavation of 280 STPs. Difficulties were encountered in obtaining archaeological access to the residential properties in the vicinity of Fix's Corner, and these areas were not examined. Figure 65A-D shows the areas tested in the Phase I survey, the location of STPs, the tract names, the presence of known sites, and the location of the proposed ROW. Table 12 summarizes the results of the testing in Segment 3.

One prehistoric site was identified in Segment 3 during the Phase I testing, the Stuart Forest Site (7NC-D-137). In addition, there is the potential for an historic site in the vicinity of Fix's Corner (Hersey Site); due to difficulties in

FIGURE 65A  
Segment III, Phase I and II Testing

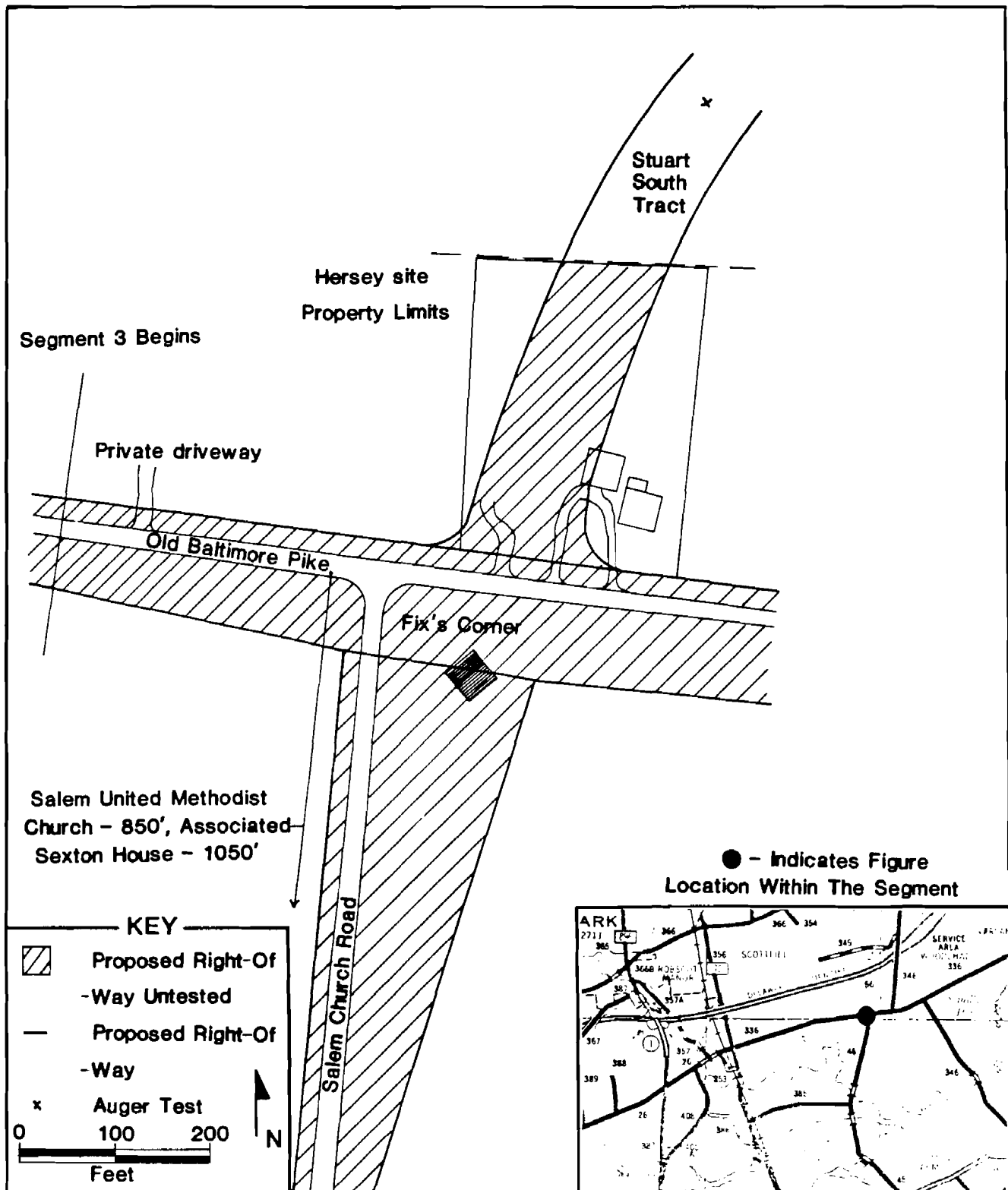


FIGURE 65B  
Segment III (cont.)

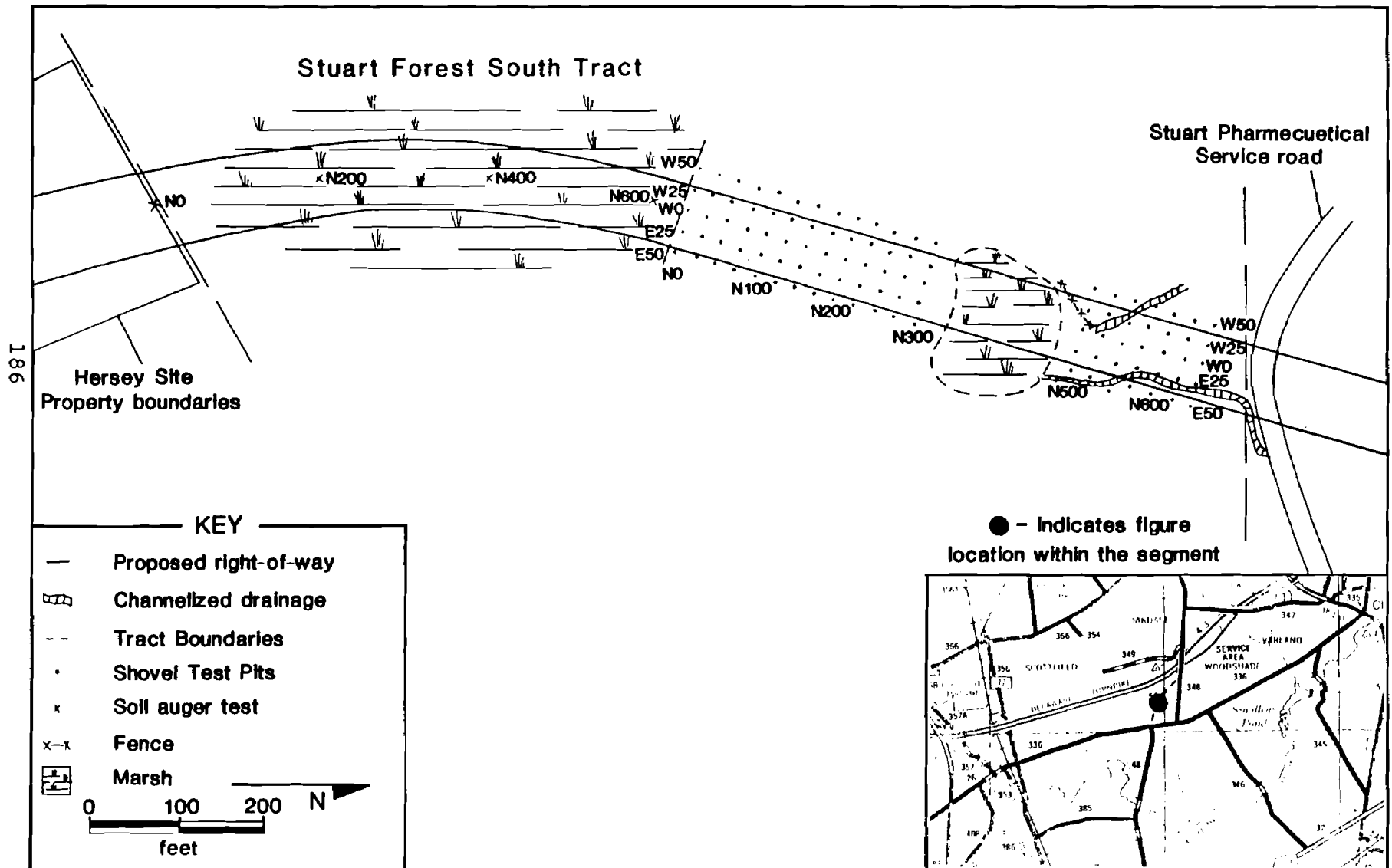


FIGURE 65C  
Segment III (cont.)

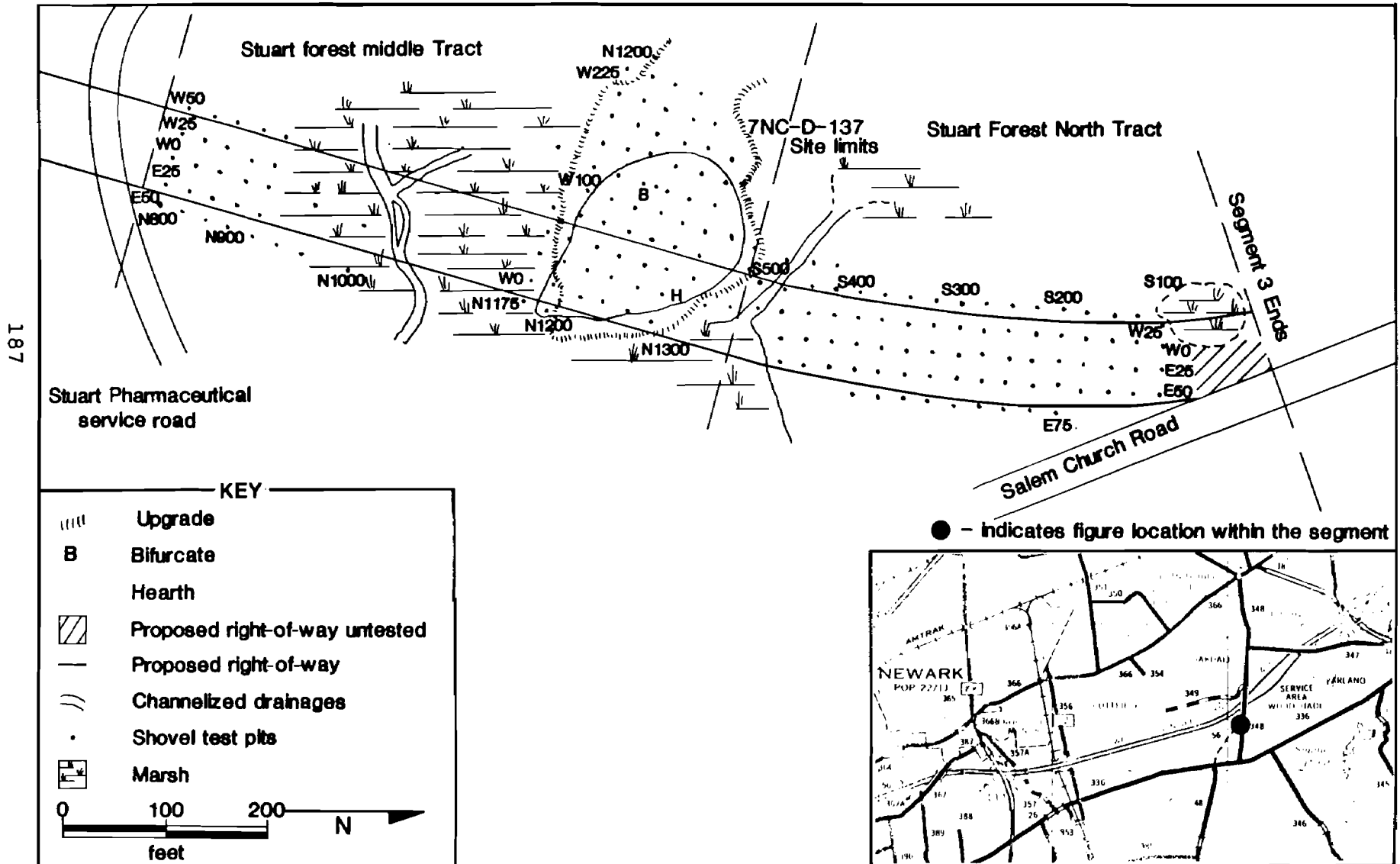


FIGURE 65D  
Segment III (cont.)

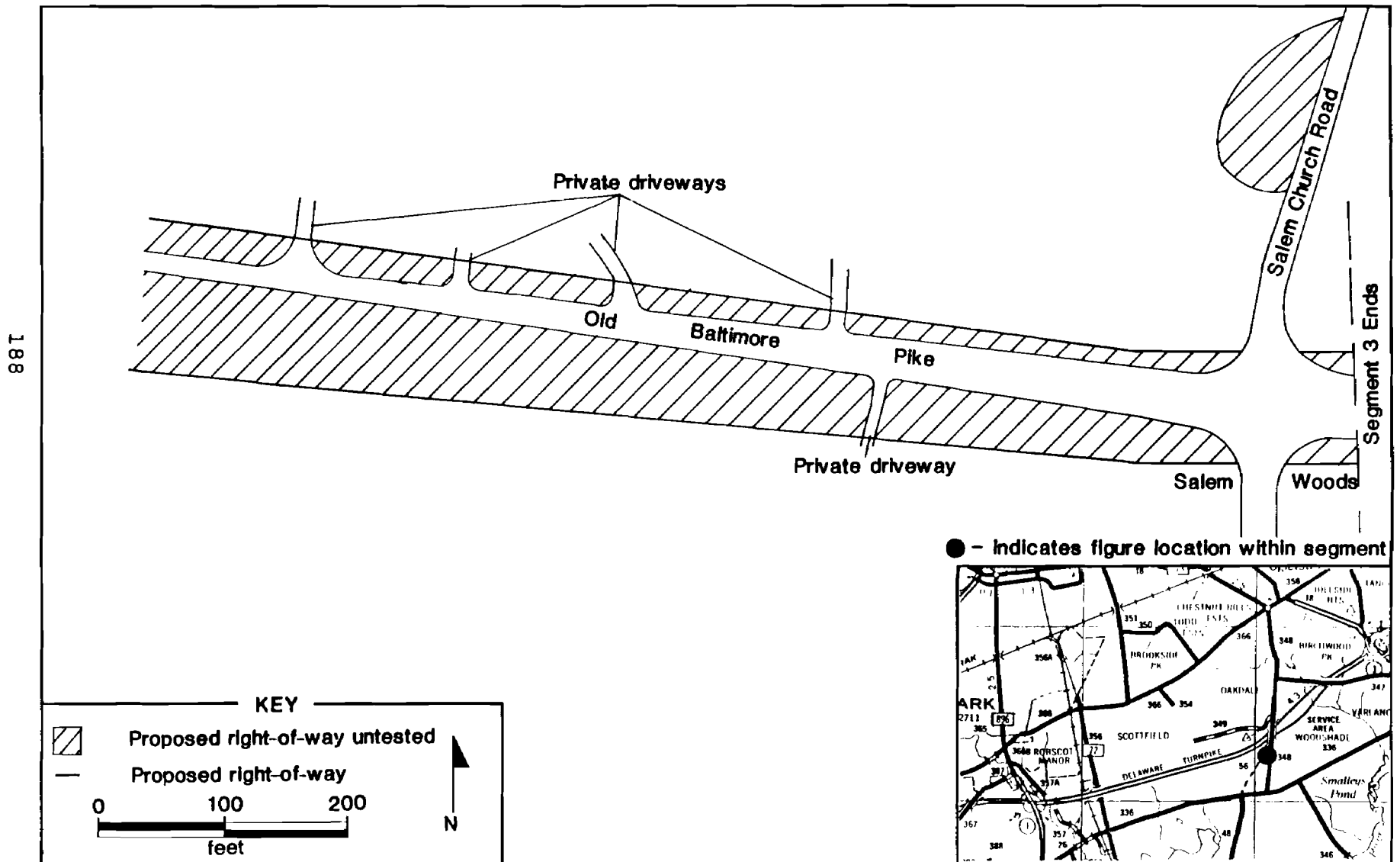


TABLE 12

## SEGMENT 3 TESTING SUMMARY

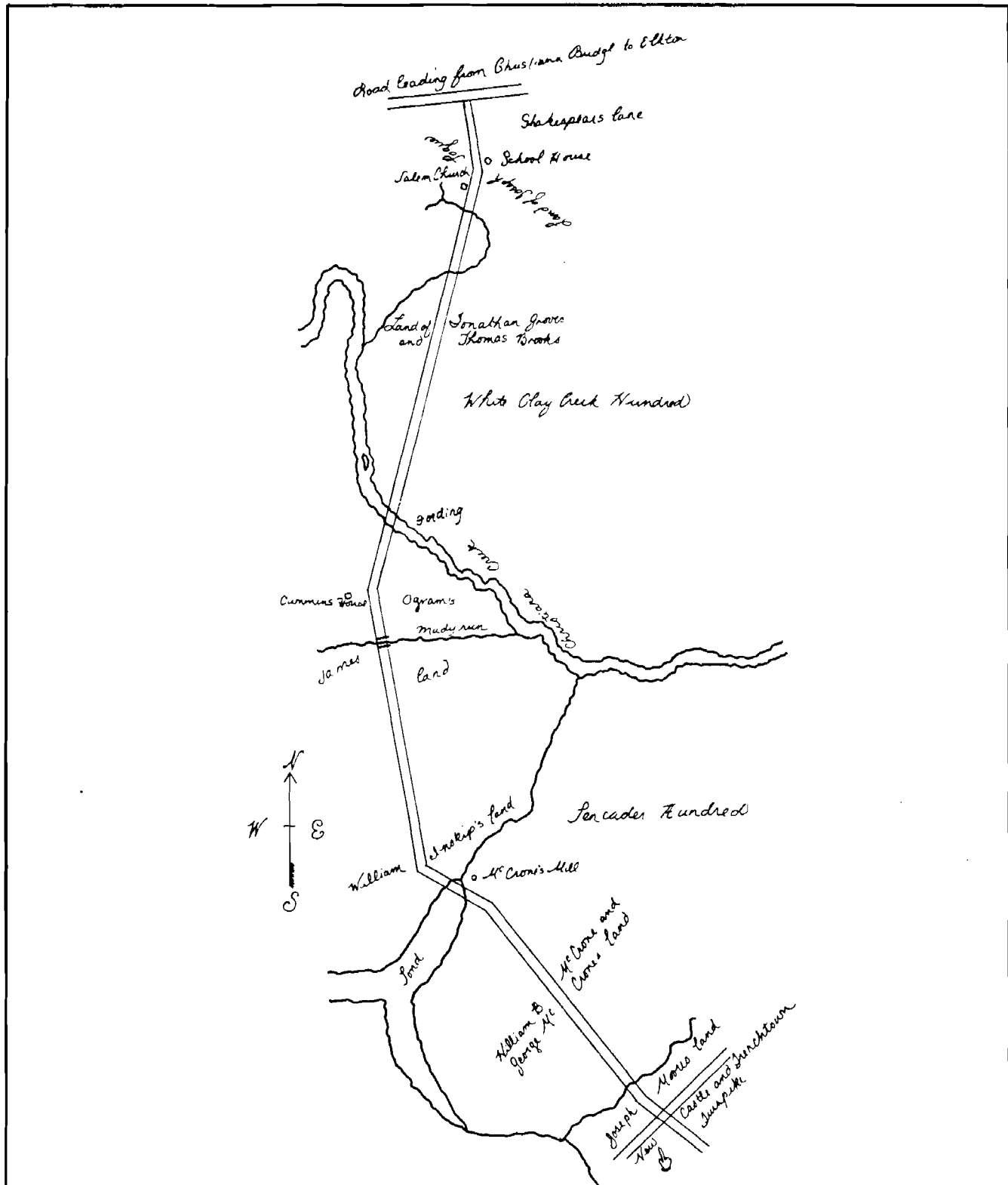
Tract Name	Number of STPs	Site Present	Artifacts Recovered	Additional Testing	Notes/Comments
Cunningham Tract	-----	-----	-----	-----	No access obtained; potential location of 18th - 19th c. house site.
Stuart Forest South	4 auger tests  104 STPs	-----	-----	-----	Low swampy woodlot setting with two sandy ridges; evidence of plowing. No sites found.
Stuart Forest Middle	103 STPs	7NC-D-137	58 prehist. arts. & FCR  124 hist. arts.	-----	1 jasper bifurcate projectile point re- covered from unplowed, in situ context. Small ridges surrounded by woodlands and drainages. Charcoal in hearth present from Woodland II Period.
Stuart Forest North	73 STPs	-----	13 prehist. arts. 2 hist. arts.	-----	Similar setting as in Stuart Forest Middle - woodland with swampy ground. Artifacts re- covered from poor stratigraphic contexts.
Total	280 STPs 4 auger tests	1 prehist. site	-----	-----	-----
Key: hist. - historic prehist. - prehistoric			arts. - artifacts STPs - shovel test pits		

obtaining access, this site was not subjected to subsurface testing. The results of the Phase I testing for these locations will be described below, and the recommendations for each will be presented. To facilitate the discussion, the proposed ROW of Segment 3 is divided into four tracts south to north: the Fix's Corner, Stuart Forest South, Stuart Forest Middle, and the Stuart Forest North Tracts.

The Fix's Corner Tract extends from the intersection of Salem Church Road and Old Baltimore Pike, south 900 feet, and north 400 feet (Figure 65A). Based on archival research, the intersection at Fix's Corner was formally created in the spring of 1856, when the road from the New Castle and Frenchtown Turnpike (present-day U.S. Route 40) to the road from Christiana Bridge to Elkton was laid out (New Castle Court of General Sessions 1856) (Figure 66). Prior to this date, there appears to have been a private road or farm lane leading south from Old Baltimore Pike (Figure 6), and Salem Church Road is not present on the Rea and Price Map of 1849 (Figure 8).

Historically, development of the intersection has not been extensive. Salem Methodist Meeting and School House No. 43 were the only structures located on the Salem Church Road portion of the intersection for most of the nineteenth century (Figures 8, 9, 10, and 11). Within the last 30 to 40 years, several single family homes and businesses have been constructed at Fix's Corner. Thus, with the exception of the Salem Methodist Meeting and its associated Sexton's House, there are few historic cultural resources located at the intersection. The building which housed the schoolhouse is still extant, but is beyond the

FIGURE 66  
Salem Church Road Plat, 1856





bounds of the proposed ROW, as is the Salem Meeting. Previous archaeological investigations at schoolhouses (Catts et al. 1983; Catts et al. 1986) have shown that these structures are not likely to yield significant historic information, due to the site function and low artifact frequencies. Additionally, the vicinity has a low potential for prehistoric archaeological sites, based on research designs presented by Custer (1986) and Custer and De Santis (1986). No subsurface investigations were conducted on this tract because of difficulties encountered in obtaining access to the properties.

**Salem Methodist Episcopal Church (N-3993) and the Sexton's House (N-3994)**

Both of the standing structures are included in the BAHP site files and though they will not be impacted will be mentioned. They are located south of Fix's Corner, beyond the proposed project area, on the west side of Salem Church Road. The Salem Meeting was originally constructed as a small one-room chapel in 1809, on land purchased two years earlier from a local landowner, Robert McFarlin. The chapel was a three bay brick structure constructed on a stone foundation, and measured approximately 34x30 feet. The Salem Meeting was incorporated in the fall of 1807, and its first board of trustees included several prominent, local landholders, including Abraham Keazy, William McIntyre, William Wright, and James Bradford. Keazy held property along Old Baltimore Pike, and McIntyre and Wright were members of the families previously discussed. James Bradford was the owner of the Ferguson House, an archaeological site previously investigated on present-day Route 4 (Coleman et

al. 1984). Prior to the erection of the Meeting house, the Methodists of the Newark-Christiana Bridge area had met in their homes; as early as 1772, a local resident, Isaac Hersey, had held meetings at his home. Hersey is shown as the owner of a house along Old Baltimore Pike on the Colles' Map of 1789 (see below; Figure 6).

The Salem Meeting has served this area since its founding, and is the oldest continuously meeting Methodist Chapel in the state of Delaware (Fickett 1978). The project area does not include either N-3993 or N-3994; both are located beyond the limits of the proposed ROW. A National Register Nomination was prepared for both resources in 1978 (Fickett 1978) and is on file at the BAHP.

#### **Hersey House Site**

This site is located on the north side of Old Baltimore Pike directly opposite Salem Church Road at Fix's Corner (Figures 65A and B). It is located within the direct impact zone of the proposed ROW. Difficulties were encountered in obtaining access to the property, and Phase I subsurface testing was not possible. Historic background research found that this site was the location of an historic settlement since the third decade of the eighteenth century. The early property transactions for this site appear to be the same as for the Lloyd Site in Segment 2 (Table 10). A summary of the Hersey Site deed transactions is presented in Table 13. The property, including a dwelling house, is shown on "Benjamin's Hope" in 1739 (Figure 3), and was divided up by the McAntier family in 1761. The New Castle County Road Map of 1763 (Figure 4) shows the house as "Alex McAntire's

TABLE 13

HERSEY SITE,  
SUMMARY OF DEED TRANSACTIONS, 1865-1980

Date	Granter/Grantee	Acres	References	Cost
Sept. 28, 1979	Lewis A. Grello, NCCO from Samuel S. Daniels & wf, NCCO	.854a	O-107-018	\$48,144.00
Dec. 22, 1977	Samuel S. Daniels & wife from Curtis Qualls & wife	.854a	T-99-272	\$45,900.00
May 1, 1964	Curtis Qualls & wife from John N. Eckrich & wife	.854a	Z-72-240	\$ 10.00
July 6, 1956	John M. Eckrich, WCCH from Charles F. Hess, Jr., WCCH	.854a	X-57-419	\$ 10.00
July 29, 1947	Charles F. Hess Jr., WCCH from James F. Halas, WCCH	*.854a	L-47-34	\$ 5.00
<hr/>				
Nov. 26, 1980	Kenneth P. Vandergrifth, Jr. from Stephen O'Leary & wife	.92a	W-112-140	\$45,900
May 22, 1970	Doris M. Reid O'Leary from Ted W. Reid	.92a	Intestate Laws of DE	-----

TABLE 13 (cont.)

Date	Granter/Grantee	Acres	References	Cost
Dec. 7, 1959	Ted W. Reid & wf, city of W from William F. Ambogais & wife Lackawanna Co.	.92	E-65-96	\$ 10.00
Feb. 15, 1950	William F. Ambogais & wife from James F. Halas & wife, CH	*.92a	W-49-139	\$ 10.00
March 29, 1946	James F. Halas & wife, C of W from William J. Prouse & wife of C of W	5.13a	Z-45-130	\$ 7,000
March 29, 1946	William J. Prouse & wife, C of W from Waclaw Pursycki, C of W	5.13a	Z-45-144	\$ 6,500
April 20, 1932	Waclaw Pursycki from Security Trust & Safe Deposit Co.	4 Parcels 1-34.6 2-21.77 3-15.38 *4-5.13	F-38-46	\$ 3,500
Feb. 5, 1898	Security Trust & Safe Deposit Co. from Mary C. Donnelly & hsbd	4 Parcels = 76a, 1r, 23p	N-17-570	\$ 2,500

TABLE 13 (cont.)

Date	Granter/Grantee	Acres	References	Cost
Feb. 3, 1896	Mary C. Donnelly & hsb., C of W from William M. S. Donnelly, SM, C of W	4 Parcels	A-17-57	\$ 4,000
Feb. 3, 1896	William M. S. Donnelly from Charles F. Donnelly & wife	4 Parcels	Z-16-343	\$ 4,000
March 7, 1893	Charles F. Donnelly from William Simmons, Shff.	4 Parcels	C-16-356	\$ 1,500
April 25, 1870	James A. Lee, RLH from H. S. Churchman & W. F. Smally, Adms. of W. F. Southgate	4 Parcels	O-9-24	-----
Aug. 14, 1868	Adms. of Walter F. Southgate decd. from Stephen Cunningham, Mill CH	4 Parcels	A-9-491	-----
March 21, 1865	Stephen Cunningham, MCH from Mary Shakespre, C of W	4 Parcels	A-8-369	\$ 3,490

\* - These lots were created from the 5.13 parcel described by Z-45-130 -- the 18th century Hersey site is located within these 20th century house lots.

Key: NCCO - New Castle County                      C - City  
 WCCH - White Clay Creek Hundred              MCH - Mill Creek Hundred  
 W - Wilmington                                      Shff. - Sheriff  
 CH - Christina Hundred

House", which was considered to be the home plantation of the McAntier family (New Castle County Deed Record C-4-488). Colles' Map of 1789 records the house, just south of an intersection, as belonging to "Hershey" (Figure 6), a corruption of Isaac Hersey's surname. Hersey owned property in the area as early as 1772 (Fickett 1978). By 1849 the house is recorded as belonging to Benjamin Shakespeare (Figure 8). Beers' Map of White Clay Creek Hundred (1868) shows the property to belong to S. Cunningham (Figure 9). By 1881 it was in the possession of C. F. Connelly, who retained it for the remainder of the nineteenth century (Figures 10 and 11).

Though no subsurface investigations were conducted on the Hersey Site, there exists a high potential for the recovery of historic data from the site. As planned at present, the proposed ROW will remove the existing structure, which is modern and built on the foundation of an earlier building, and will extend north across the backyard area of the property, where several small wooden sheds are located. Therefore, the likelihood of excavating historic middens and features at the Hersey Site dating from the eighteenth through twentieth centuries is quite high. Archaeological deposits of this type are significant, and useful in the study of historic sites development and use over time and space (Fairbanks 1975). The low, wet, and swampy nature of the ground surface within the woods behind the Hersey Site and along the north property line of the tract suggests that considerable historic landscaping and filling may have taken place. Though the site has been continuously occupied since the eighteenth century, present land use is primarily confined to the

southern half of the property suggesting that intact, earlier historic deposits may be present in the northern portion of the site. The Hersey Site has potential to yield significant cultural information about rural historic site patterning and Phase I and II archaeological investigations of the site are recommended to determine the eligibility of the site to the National Register of Historic Places.

#### **The Stuart Forest Site (7NC-D-137)**

Stuart Forest South tract extends northeast from the northern edge of the Fix's corner tract approximately 1400 feet to the east entrance of Stuart Pharmaceuticals (Figure 65B-C). The first 650 feet of the proposed ROW consisted of swampy, poorly drained soils criss-crossed by drainage ditches and pipelines.

A pedestrian survey of the area determined no need for shovel testing due to the low probability for historic or prehistoric resources. Four soil auger tests, spaced at 200 foot intervals, were excavated to examine soil profiles (Figure 65B). The soil profile consisted of a 15cm thick humus horizon underlain by brown, gray, and yellow-gray silty sands and clays extending to approximately 16-45cm below ground surface. These soils were underlain by fine gray silty clays. Virtually no gravels or pebbles were recovered in the auger tests. The next 750 feet of the proposed ROW, Stuart Forest South, contained two areas of increased topographic relief and better drained soils. A small marsh separates the two areas and channelized drainages are present in the poorly drained areas. Because of the medium probability for prehistoric resources this segment was extensively shovel tested.

Figure 65B shows the location of the shovel-testing and the topographic features of this portion of the Stuart Forest South Tract. Artifacts collected during the excavation of these shovel tests were recent historic materials. No historic artifacts of any significance nor any prehistoric artifacts were recovered. No further work is recommended within this portion of the proposed ROW.

The next 700 feet of proposed ROW, the Stuart Forest Middle Tract, was extensively shovel-tested (Figure 65C). These shovel tests were placed in areas of higher topographic relief considered to contain a high site probability within the proposed ROW. Extensive shovel testing was conducted on an area of significant topographic relief surrounded by a poorly-drained lowland. This small knoll contains moderately well-drained soils and the location of site 7NC-D-137. Figures 67 and 68 show the soil profiles across the site area and the profiles adjacent to the knoll. Soils were unplowed and relatively undisturbed.

No historic artifacts of any significance were collected. Recent household trash from a nearby property was scattered along the east edge of the rise. Buried prehistoric artifacts in an undisturbed context were excavated from a number of the shovel tests. These consisted of flakes, bifaces, and projectile points, including a bifurcate projectile point base. Plate 8 pictures some of the prehistoric artifacts found. Figure 69 represents a distribution map of the artifacts and Table 14 summarizes the artifact collection. A heavy concentration of fire-cracked rock and carbonized wood (Feature 1) was found in shovel test



FIGURE 67

# Stuart Forest Site (7NC-D-137), W0 and W75 Transect, Soil Profiles

200

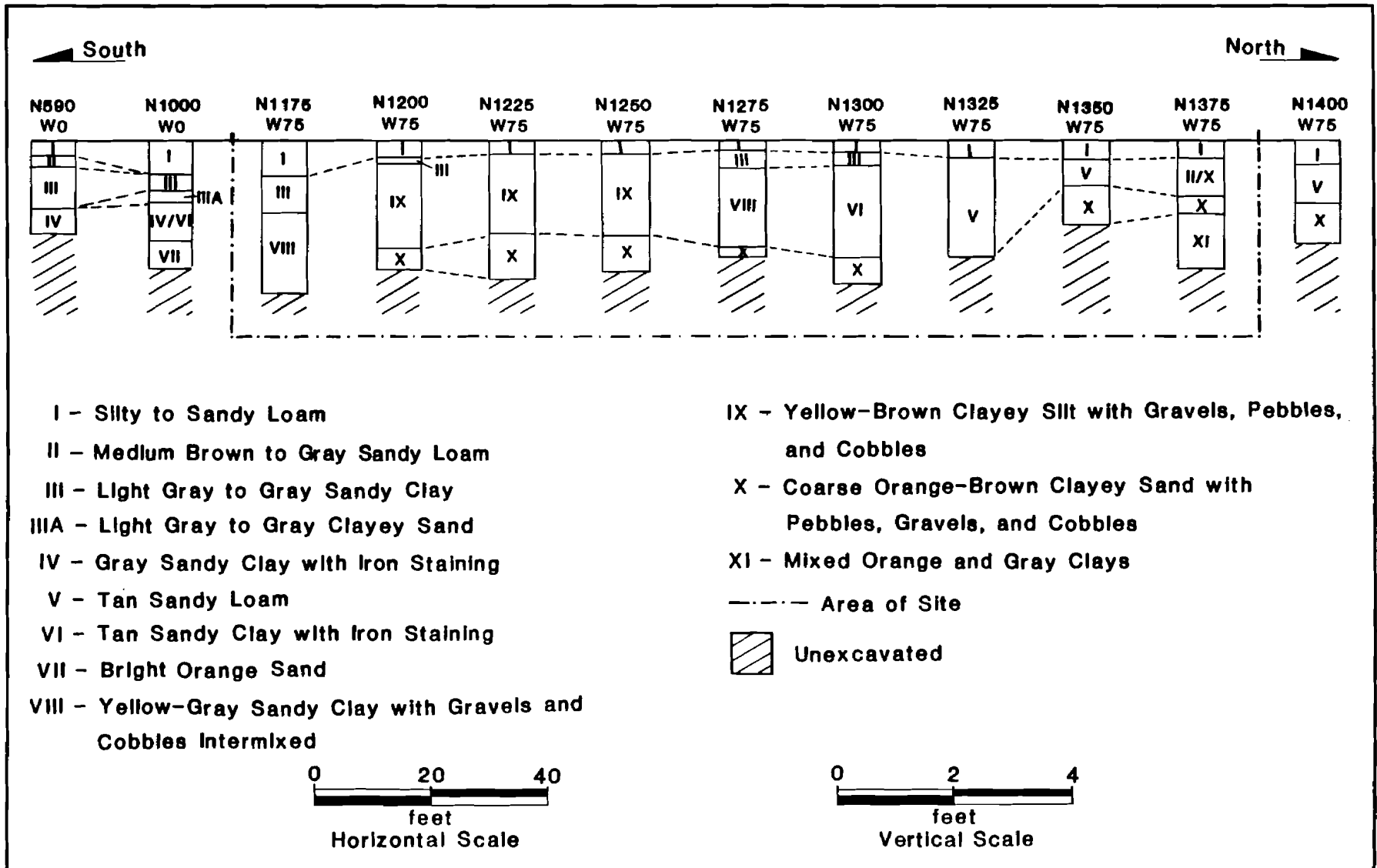
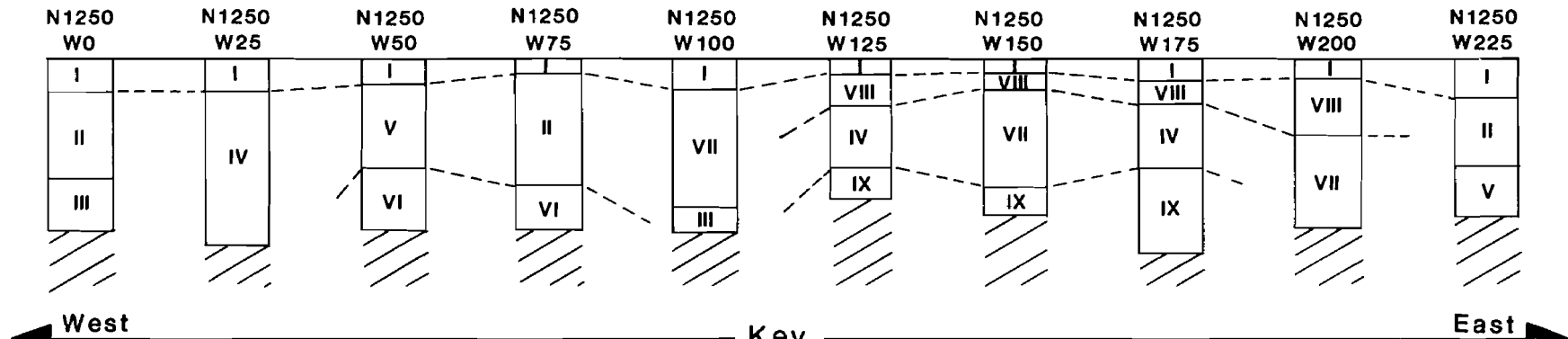


FIGURE 68

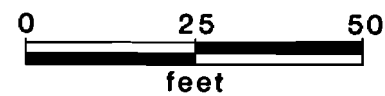
# Stuart Forest Site (7NC-D-137), N1250W0 Transect, Soil Profiles



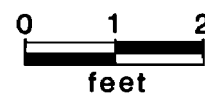
- I - Dark Brown Silty to Sandy Loam Humus
- II - Yellow-Brown Sandy Clay with Pebbles, Gravels, and Cobbles
- III - Orange Clayey Sands
- IV - Tan-Brown Silty Sand
- V - Orange-Brown Silty Sand
- VI - Orange-Brown Sandy Clay with Pebbles, Gravels and Cobbles
- VII - Orange-Tan Sandy Clay
- VIII - Gray-Brown Sandy Loam with Pebbles
- IX - Orange and Gray Silty Clay



Unexcavated



Horizontal Scale



Vertical Scale

PLATE 8

Stuart Forest Site, 7NC-D-136, Prehistoric Artifacts

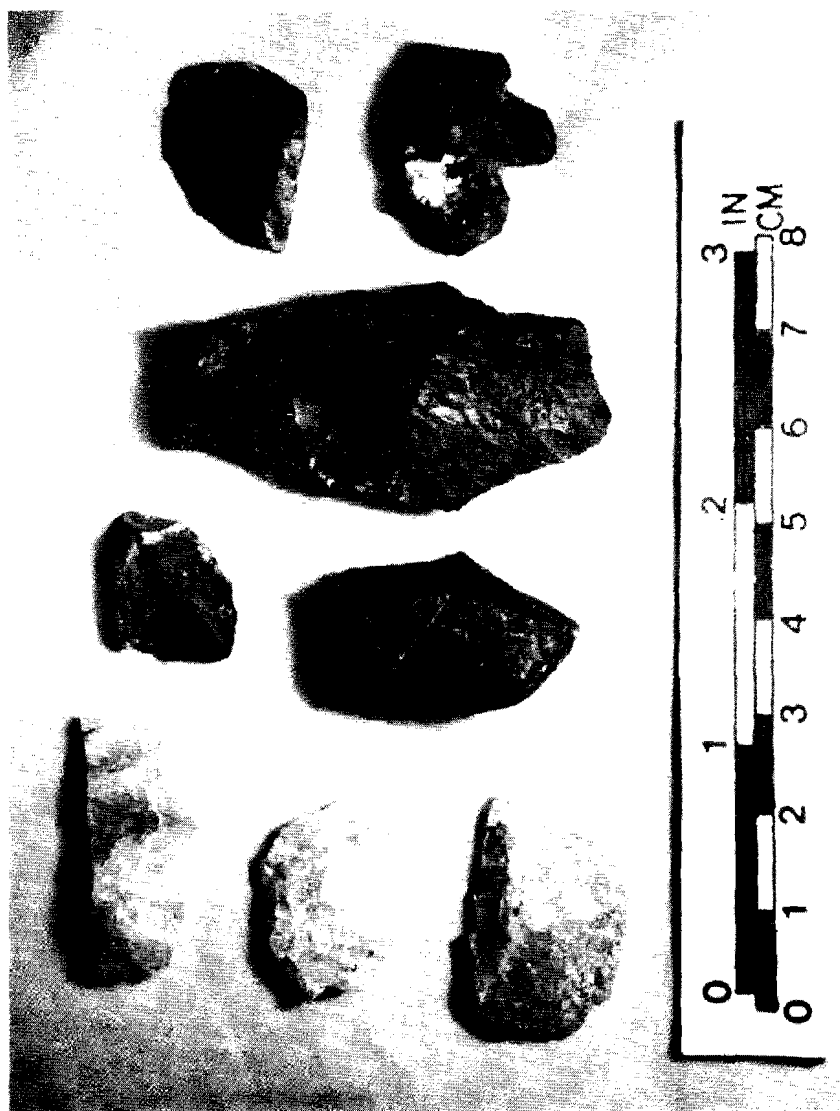


FIGURE 69  
Stuart Forest Site (7NC-D-137), Absence/Presence of Artifacts

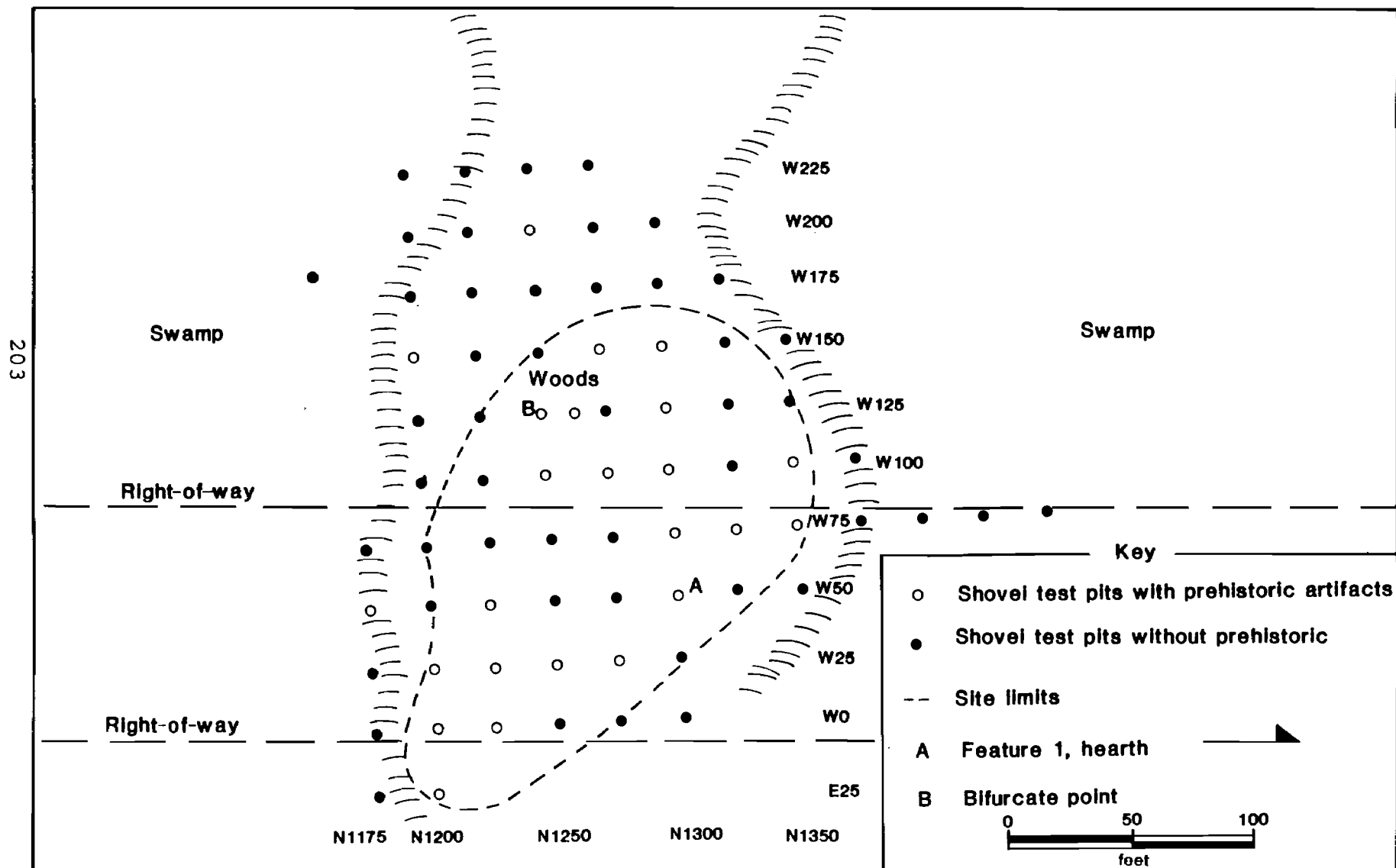


TABLE 14

## STUART FOREST PREHISTORIC ARTIFACT SUMMARY

	Quartzite	Quartz	Chert	Jasper	Total
Flakes(c)	12(2)	13(7)	5(3)	22(14)	52(26)
Utilized flakes(c)	---	---	---	1	1
Flake tools(c)	---	---	---	---	---
Archaic points	---	---	---	1	1
Woodland II points	---	---	---	1(st)	1
Misc. stone tools	---	---	2(2)	---	2(2)
Cores	---	1(1)	---	---	1(1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>12(2)</b>	<b>14(8)</b>	<b>7(5)</b>	<b>25(14)</b>	<b>58(29)</b>

	Total Count	%
Quartzite	12(2)	20.68%
Quartz	14(8)	24.14%
Chert	7(5)	12.07%
Jasper	25(14)	43.10%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.00%</b>

**Key:**

(c) - cortex  
(st) - stemmed

N1300W50. Radio-carbon dating of a sample of the carbon collected from Feature 1 returned a date of  $640 \pm 125$  B.P. (UGa - 5719).

Because the Stuart Forest Site contains artifacts and features in undisturbed contexts, it is considered to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. If the site cannot be avoided, data recovery excavations are recommended.

The final 500 feet of the proposed ROW, Stuart Forest North Tract, was extensively shovel tested (Figure 65C). The last 100 feet of the proposed ROW, at the northern edge of Segment 3 had been disturbed by the emplacement of gas pipelines and large

storage tanks. The ground surface was scattered with recent historic trash and evidence of surfacial ground disturbance was present. No significant historic artifacts were recovered. No further work is recommended for this portion of Segment 3.

#### **SEGMENT 4: SALEM CHURCH ROAD TO THE CHRISTIANA BY-PASS**

This segment extends from the eastern dog-leg of Salem Church Road to the Christiana By-Pass, or Route 273, a distance of approximately 1.9 miles (Figure 19). The current environment of this portion of the project area consists of plowed and fallow fields and pasture, residential development housing, single family lawns, gardens, and woodlots. Recently, new residential development has begun in several locations within this segment, and affected the testing of the Summerhill, Barratt's Run, and Brennan tracts, and the testing around the Christiana Green property and the lands east of Leatherman's Run. The proposed ROW crosses two important drainages in this segment, Barratt's Run and Leatherman's Run, both of which had high potential for the location of prehistoric micro-band base camps and/or procurement sites, based on the research design developed for the project and on the work of Custer (1986) and Custer and DeSantis (1986). The project area in this segment follows closely the existing roadbed, and includes from 30 to 50 feet of proposed ROW along either side of Old Baltimore Pike, shifting slightly from one side to the other.

Within this segment, 15 property tracts were subjected to archaeological investigations. The majority of the tracts surveyed exhibited soil stratigraphy and development that has